

Regular Session, 2005

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 152

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Sergeant David J. Murray.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Army National Guard Sergeant David J. Murray upon his death from wounds suffered in combat operations in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, Sergeant David J. Murray was a native of Pennsylvania who moved to Clinton while still in high school and grew to manhood there and came to love his adopted state and began a career in law enforcement after his graduation from Silliman Institute in 2001; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Murray also followed another calling while still in highschool when he joined the Louisiana National Guard and began his service with Company B, 1088th Engineer Battalion of the 256th Combat Brigade Team; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Murray began to concentrate on his desire to become a peace officer after his initial basic combat training was complete, becoming a POST certified East Feliciana Parish sheriff's deputy full-time and working part-time for the Norwood Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Murray lived in the small community of Felixville, northeast of Clinton, where he was well liked by his neighbors and highly respected in the law

1 enforcement family and widely known for his strong self-discipline, his good manners, and
2 professionalism at work; and

3 WHEREAS, Sergeant Murray had been deeply affected by the terrorist attacks of
4 September 11, 2001, and felt it was his duty to fight the enemies of his country, declaring
5 that he was ready if his country needed him and sent him to war; and

6 WHEREAS, Sergeant Murray's battalion was activated in 2004 and he trained
7 alongside his fellow soldiers, friends, and neighbors as the unit prepared for its deployment
8 to Iraq and the troops sharpened their combat skills, hardened their bodies, and readied
9 themselves for the challenge that lay ahead; and

10 WHEREAS, Sergeant Murray and the men of his unit arrived in the Iraqi Theater of
11 Operations in November of 2004 and were given the task of stabilizing and securing a
12 portion of the capitol city of Baghdad that was known as a haven for enemy forces trying to
13 derail the first free elections in the desert country in more than four decades and push the
14 war torn state into chaos; and

15 WHEREAS, Sergeant Murray served with great distinction, leading his men through
16 the heat, fire, and confusion of battle, always placing the needs of his men and their mission
17 before his own; and

18 WHEREAS, Sergeant Murray and his men fought bravely and were successful in
19 their mission to insure that elections did take place and the citizens of Iraq were then in a
20 position to determine their own path to freedom and democratic rule and hopefully end the
21 years of war and desperation; and

22 WHEREAS, Sergeant Murray and his men were conducting a mounted patrol in
23 northern Baghdad on June 9, 2005, when they were engaged by terrorist elements operating
24 in support of a new enemy offensive when improvised explosive device was detonated near
25 the armored personnel carrier he and his men were traveling in, mortally wounding Sergeant
26 Murray and seriously injuring two of his comrades.

27 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana that
28 a profound sense of loss and heartfelt condolences are hereby expressed upon the death of
29 United States Army National Guard Sergeant David J. Murray while fighting the enemies
30 of America on a faraway, hostile battlefield.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
2 family of Sergeant David J. Murray.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

DIGEST

Expresses condolences upon the death of U. S. Army National Guard Sergeant David J.
Murray.